Withdrawal of subsidies on petroleum products

585. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out any strategy to withdraw all subsidy with respect to various petroleum products for the ensuing years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to resolve the difficulties and problems of the strata of society, these subsidies are intended for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) It has been decided to phase out the subsidy on PDS kerosene and domestic LPG in the next three to five years.

LPG distributors in Orissa

586. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the name and the number of companies dealing with LPG connection and distribution in Orissa;

(b) the number of distributors/dealers appointed by each copmpany;

(c) the names of such distributors/dealers;

(d) whether Government have a proposal to increase the LPG connections in that State; and

(e) if so, the target set for 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) At present, 3 Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) are dealing with the LPG distribution in the State of Orissa. The number of LPG distributors as on 1.1.2002 operated by these OMCs were as under:—

IOCL	BPCL	HPCL
52	23	57